To Charlotte L. Forten

Wayland, June 28th, 1867.

Dear Charlotte,

102 It is very kind of you all to urge your two old friends to come to your annual festival. I am especially obliged to the winsome Mrs. Cheney for her friendly and very thoughtful invitation. But circumstances which it would not be interesting to you to relate render it impracticable for us to come.

Mr. Child stands pledged to attend his College Class dinner on the 16th of July. He has been often invited to meet with a few of his classmates still remaining, but his state of health has prevented it. Increasing years and infirmities admonish him that but few such opportunities for re-union may remain, and he is very desirous to be in a good condition to go. In order to do it, he must avoid heat, and fatigue, and excitement beforehand. I rather dread his effort to attend the College Dinner,

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for such occasions usually make him ill.

The house of our old friend, S. E. Sewall, of Melrose, is a home always open for us, night or day, when we go into the vicinity of Boston; but though we are very strongly attached to them, it is a year and four months since we have been there.

The house of Miss Lucy Osgood, of Medford is another home, always open to us; and there is nothing I enjoy more than her company; yet we think we do great things if we get there once a year.

You may judge from this, what hermits we are. I shall think of you on the 11th, and be with you affectionately in spirit.

Ever cordially your friend,

L. Maria Child.